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IMPORTANT FROM CHARLESTON.

Reliable information has been received from the North that reinforcements are ordered to Fort Sumter, and will be accompanied by a squadron under command of Commodore Stringham.

Five thousand Southern men, in addition to those at present in the fortifications, are ready to take the field within twenty-four hours.

The ultimatum, siege or surrender, has not yet been sent to Major Anderson, but with the supplies sent to him he is in a position to resist.

Troops have been ordered to rendezvous at points remote from Charleston, but within supporting distance, to watch the movements of the enemy. They move at once.

Governor Pickens has all day been inspecting the batteries, accompanied by a portion of his Council and senior officers of the army. Everything throughout was in a state of excitement.

Blockade is inevitable, and if one drop is spilled no one knows when it will end.

A formal demand for the surrender of the fort has not been made, and may not be made at all.

For obvious reasons the intentions of the Confederacy are involved in mystery.

The excitement is intense, and everybody is in a fighting humor.

THE EFFECT AT THE SOUTH OF THE WAR-LIKE MOVEMENTS.

Montgomery, Ala., April 6, 1861.

The people of this city rally to the war news exceedingly. They are greatly pleased with the prospect of a "brush," but are afraid that the Lincoln administration will evade a conflict.

The news of the firing into a schooner at Charleston brightens all faces.

New Orleans, April 6, 1861.

The report that war vessels have been ordered to the mouth of the Mississippi river creates considerable excitement here.

Augusta, Georgia, April 6, 1861.

Little reliance is placed in the despatches from the North respecting war preparations, but it is universally conceded that all prefer such a policy to suspense.

Goldsbrough, N. C., April 6, 1861.

The news of the firing into a schooner at Charleston is exciting the community to the highest degree of anger. They say they wish to hear of an attack on Fort Sumter, as the military are ready to assist the Southern Confederacy.

Wilmington, N. C., April 6, 1861.

The warlike news has been received here, but causes no excitement at present.

Richmond, Va., April 6, 1861.

Outside of the State Convention, the war news of last night and to-day has produced no great sensation. The people are prepared to expect anything, but believe that if a blow is struck at any Southern State or port, thousands of Union men will go for "immediate secession."

Petersburg, Va., April 6, 1861.

The excitement in this city to-day is very great. The war tidings are discussed on every corner, and the people say "Let it come."

Great indignation is expressed at the dilatory course of the Convention.

All the people are at a high pitch, and all say "Virginia must secede."

IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

Richmond, Va., April 6, 1861.

The Virginia State Convention reassembled this forenoon.

Secession resolutions from the people of Charlotte and Norfolk counties were presented.

Mr. HALLADAY said that the signers to the latter constituted a small minority of the people of the county.

Mr. JOHNSON presented a petition for secession, signed by 1,500 people of Richmond. He said that the signers constituted only about a third of the voters of the city, though it had been weeks in preparation.

The ninth resolution was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and the amendments offered yesterday defeated.

THE APPROACHING CIVIL WAR.

The excitement which has sprung up within the last few days consequent upon the unexpected movement of United States troops, the commissioning of United States vessels, the chartering of steamers for military service, the extensive preparations made to do out the same with all the deadly material of war, and, above all, the mystery which shrouds the object of this extraordinary bulge of preparation, seemed to reach its culminating point yesterday.

On whatever side the attention or curious observer turned the all-absorbing topic of conversation was the military preparations and the warlike attitude so suddenly assumed by the government at Washington. But while the facts laid before the public yesterday morning by the Herald furnished an interesting subject for discussion, it was evidently the precise cause of all this unusual hubbub greatly excited the lieges of Uncle Sam.

The Battery, if its use conveyed the significance of its name, might be appropriately considered a fitting spot for assemblages to meet and discuss the tidings of coming war. But though this is not so, yet was the Battery the chosen ground yesterday morning to treat of these events, whose coming have cast their shadows before, and which have startled the mind of the community. A great diversity of opinion prevailed as to the object of the armaments in process of embarkation on the Powhatan, the Atlantic and other steamers, and the destination of the troops daily concentrated at the different stations in the harbor.

But so little information could be acquired from the surmise of the assemblages, and as it is the duty of the reporters to collect facts and to lay the same before the public, it was necessary to visit the different forts, and, if possible, to learn from authentic sources what was going on.

The great bustle and activity observable in the Navy Yard for these days denotes that much is to be done before the orders of the War Department can be fully complied with. Within each of the forts the same quiet, orderly bustle and active preparation is going on that has marked the conduct of the military for the last few days.

Arms are furnished, kits got ready, inspections are made, parades are incessant, orders are in perpetual motion, and all this under the strictest rules of discipline. The bearing of every man in garbison is characterized with soldierly gravity which seems to impress all such individuals with the idea that every order he meets is as much in the secret as the "head-quarters" of War himself. But to all inquiries even at the "head-quarters" the invariable answer was, "We are all in the dark here; we get all our own information from the Herald."

What's coming seems to be better known at your office than it is to our highest officers," etc., etc. In every instance all courtesy was extended to the reporters, and in the forts all due facility was offered for noting the preparations going on and of ascertaining the feeling of the men. On this latter point the men are very chary of expressing themselves. They evince no hesitation in carrying out to the letter the orders of their superiors; indeed, a very commendable promptitude is observable in the manner they go through every routine of garrison duty. The officers seem to have every reliance on the loyalty and fidelity of the men, while the latter reciprocate this feeling most heartily. In this respect the *esprit de corps* is beyond all imagination and all cavil. While this is aimed towards each other and towards the profession they have voluntarily chosen, it is equally true that officers and men lament the dissensions which have disrupted the Union, the more bitterly from the very fact that their services are likely to be called into requisition before a compromise is effected, and they freely express the hope that no collision will take place between the two confederacies.

One fruitful theme of conjecture and comment in all circles, but more particularly in military, was the resignation of Major Holmes and Major Johnson. The former, an old and tried officer, is a native of North Carolina. He has been in the service some thirty years, and has distinguished himself on several occasions in the field. The resignation is not officially known, and the report may be premature; but yet the report getting abroad at such a time, when, as chief in command of the island garrison and general superintendent of the recruiting department, his services are most necessary to the execution of the orders of the Executive has excited quite a commotion. Major Johnson is a native of Kentucky and fellow-citizen of Major Anderson, and has also been a highly esteemed officer.

The resignation of these officers will come with the more astounding effect upon the public from the fact that they must naturally exercise a depressing effect upon the feelings and sentiments of the great body of the military of every grade. Indeed, intimations were rather freely indulged in that other resignations would follow, and as these go wing, an evident gloom imperceptibly stole over the men. Still the troops continued packing up, and still an incessant activity prevailed in preparing all the materials and supplies required by troops under orders for active service. At Governor's Island wharf vessels have been loading all day with ordnance and stores for the fitting out of the steamers. The troops who are on the island under arms—the first to be ordered off—will be conveyed to the Atlantic by the steam tug Pope Callin. A detachment of the Second Artillery (Company A), intended to form part of the expedition by the Atlantic, went on board in the forenoon; several other companies followed in the course of the day, making in all between seven and eight hundred men. The Atlantic will leave with sealed orders. Her destination is, of course, only a matter of conjecture.

At the recruiting rendezvous enlistments are not particularly pressed. No orders traceable to the war excitement have been received, and none but picked men are taken. There is no want of applications at the office, but the gentlemen who desire to become foot soldiers prefer to join as volunteers, and not as men bound to serve for a period of five years. When told that Uncle Sam—or Abe Lincoln—requires no volunteers, these men would be heroes, with the most perfect composure, inquire of the officer whether he will take volunteers for the Southern army. They don't seem to understand why it is, if rejected by Uncle Sam, he is so severe in transferring them over to Jeff. Davis, who might place more value on their services.

At the United States naval rendezvous orders have been received for an accession of seamen, and large numbers of ordinary and able bodied men are joining. The term of service is three years if not sooner discharged; the rate \$18 a month. Not bad service that in these times. The general impression is that the "piping times of peace" are past, and that the President is determined to change his tune "Nobody's hurt," to whatever tune cannon ball and musketry may whistle in the beleaguered fort or tented field.

SAILING OF THE POWHATAN.

The steam ship of war Powhatan did not haul out into the stream on Friday night, as was rumored, but remained alongside the dock at the Navy Yard throughout the night. Yesterday there was another large influx of visitors to the yard, but as everything had been taken on board, there was not the same bustle that prevailed on the previous day. Much anxiety was manifested by the visitors to ascertain whether the Powhatan was bound, and whether she was going to take troops on board. One man was observed to buttonhole a watchman, and ask him "whether it was true that seagoers were to be embarked?" to which the watchman replied that he did not know, which in turn was followed by a questioner from the quest that "it was no use doing it, so how the watchman could fix it, for if troops were not to be taken on board what was the use of all this fuss?" To which, again, but rather in answer to the questioner, the watchman vouchsafed no reply. This incident serves to illustrate the curiosity that prevailed among the spectators as they watched the progress of the preparations for departure.

It would seem that the Powhatan was merely awaiting orders, for during the day two sealed packets were received by the commanding officer, and immediately upon the receipt steam was got up. At two o'clock the moorings were unfastened, and, aided by the steaming Corer the Powhatan moved slowly out, and reaching a point of the stream from free obstruction, sailed down the river. There was no cheering or other outward demonstration by the spectators, as would undoubtedly have been the case if she had been bound on a cruise to sustain the honor of the American flag against any foreign foe. The steaming party parted from her in the East river, and the Powhatan, rounding the Battery, where her movements were observed by a number of spectators, who, however, exhibited no further interest apparently than that conveyed by a gloomy look, passed out into the bay, but no salute greeted her from the forts in the harbor, nor was there any demonstration by the surrounding shipping. The steamed seawards, and after anchoring at quarantine for a short time, resumed her voyage.

The following is a revised list of the officers of the Powhatan:—  
Captains—Samuel Morrell, Maryland.  
Lieutenants—Robert Thompson, New York; M. C. Perry, New York; W. B. Whiting, New York; W. H. Gamble, Pennsylvania.  
Surgeons—Joseph Wilson, Jr., Pennsylvania.  
Passed Assistant Surgeon—James Law.  
Paymaster—J. J. Guile, New Jersey.  
Chief Engineer—Bernard Newell.  
Midshipman—George Durey, Joshua Bishop, M. S. Stuyvesant and Charles W. Read.  
Boatswain—P. McLeod.  
Carpenter—Harold Fryder.  
Sailmaker—Jacob Stephens.  
Engineers—First Assistant, William J. Landin and James P. Landin; Second Assistant, J. McLaughlin and John Ward; Third Assistant, William H. Gauding, E. Laws and H. C. McIlvaine.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE ATLANTIC.

THE ATLANTIC, GOVERNMENT TROOPSHIP OF BOARD—HER DESTINATION SUPPOSED TO BE FORT PICKENS—HER FREIGHT, ETC.

Civil war appears to be approaching us with a rapidity that is alarming, and the people are beginning to realize this terrible fact. Yesterday there was presented a sight at one of our docks that our peaceable citizens are rarely called upon to witness, the preparations for the departure of a vessel filled with ammunition and soldiers, which it is supposed are to be used against our Southern brethren, though at what point it is impossible to tell.

The steamer Atlantic, as we have recorded, has been chartered by the United States government ostensibly to go to Texas, having cleared for Brazos on Friday, rumor said to convey troops from some point in Texas to New York, but rumor had to stand aside yesterday and give way to stern facts. The Atlantic is not chartered to bring troops to this port, but to convey them from this city to where not even the officers appear to know, everything being involved in an impenetrable cloud of mystery.

We yesterday described the great bustle and preparation at the dock where the steamer Atlantic was lying, the immense amount of stores that she was receiving, and the preparations that were going on for a speedy departure, but to-day we have to sketch a much more exciting scene—no less a one than the embarkation of several companies of artillery and infantry, and the consequent excitement among the people.

Presented a scene yesterday of bustle and activity, and untiring industry on the part of the people connected with her that was very unusual: men were here, there and everywhere some going up planks others down, while gangs of men kept constantly appearing and disappearing in the most mysterious manner, through all sorts of apertures. The dock was loaded, so much so as to render it almost impossible, with barrels, bales, mattresses, gunnaries, boxes of ammunition, baggage, etc., all mixed up together and forming a compact mass, while on the other side of the Atlantic was a government schooner deeply laden with boxes and gun carriages. The work of loading was continued all Friday night, and a very large amount of ammunition was received on board and stowed away.

On board the ship everything betokened the mission on which she is bound. On every side something was not that spoke of war. The decks were covered with loose plank, around the sides of the vessel were ranged a number of water casks, while piled up for future disposition were boxes of shell and other warlike implements, among which were several boxes of the newly rifled carbines used by the artillery. The upper deck, at the bow, was devoted to the erection of stalls for the use of the horses that were to be received on board. These were constructed with regard both to strength and comfort, the sides and back being very carefully padded, so as to secure the animals from injury during the passage. Eighty of the animals were already on board, filling the front part of the vessel. Every measure has been adopted that was at all practicable to secure the comfort of the animals.

The sleeping accommodation for the soldiers are little better than the horse stalls—rough boards carelessly nailed together forms the bedstead on which the men are to stretch themselves, and more than stretch themselves they can't, there being very close quarters for one, where two are intended to be put. It is intended that each of these stalls will hold six men, and as they are very narrow, very high, and packed together as close as it is possible to do so, they will be able to carry a great number in a very small space. The cabin, staterooms and other portions of the vessel remain unchanged.

In the fore part of the hold an immense quantity of provisions are stored—four, masts, hams, barrels, and barrels are carefully stored away, and there is little fear of their provisions falling short, at least for some time; the rest of the hold is filled with the guns, carriages, forges and stores that may be needed at whatever place they may be bound for.

A portion of the soldiers that were to accompany the expedition arrived at the foot of Canal street at eleven o'clock, and were at once surrounded by a large crowd and plied with all sorts of questions. Where did you come from? Where are you going? How many men are going? Will there be a fight? but the queries were useless, the men turning a deaf ear to all questions of no matter what character, for fear that they might be made to say something that was not right, although in reality they knew nothing, and therefore had nothing to communicate. The company that arrived was Company A, Second regiment, United States Flying Artillery, Captain Harry, numbering sixty men. Owing to the crowded state of the dock, and the fact that the stalls were not ready to receive the horses, the men were obliged to remain in the street for two or three hours, after which time they were permitted to go upon the dock. They had with them four guns, two of them being brass six pounders, and the other two brass howitzers, of twelve pounds calibre.

The men were all fine looking fellows, and looked as if a slight brush with an enemy would not affect their spirits in the least. They were totally indifferent as to where they were going, and laughed and joked at the prospect before them as if it was an excursion of pleasure. It was said that the horses belonging to the artillery were very valuable animals and highly trained, and that was the reason of their being taken such extra care of. Company M, of the Second Artillery, commanded by Major Bush, accompanied the others. They had no horses, being obliged to leave them after them when they left Texas. They will be freshly supplied at whatever point they may land. The balance of the soldiers were taken on board from a steaming later in the day. There were some companies from the Second and Third regiments, in all about seven. Companies H, Captain Brooks, and G, Captain Allen, of the Second regiment light infantry, are also on board. A company of sappers and miners, from West Point, and a few persons belonging to the Ordnance Department, under the charge of Lieut. Balch, complete the whole. The total number of men is about five hundred, although many think that it is much larger. So may, however, receive a fresh supply before she leaves the city from either Fort Hamilton or Governor's Island, as she has accommodations for fully two thousand men.

THE EMBARKATION. Of the troops and armaments to be embarked in the usual military style. Some curiosity was manifested as to how so many horses (seventy-eight) were to be got on board, as the steamer was lying several feet from the dock, but the presence of two strong steel stairs soon explained that. The horse was quickly placed in one of the stalls, and almost before he had time to know where he was, the steam hoisting apparatus had placed him with his companions on board the ship. The time employed in putting all the animals in their quarters was incredibly short, only a few moments being given to each. The guns and their heavy carriages were stowed away carefully, and the baggage next received the proper attention.

The steamer R. L. Maby at five o'clock came alongside her dock, densely crowded with soldiers from Fort Hamilton, and there was some little delay in getting them on board the larger vessel. They presented a strange sight, with their knapsacks, water bottles, cans, and other accoutrements. They are nearly all young men—fine, healthy young fellows, and full of

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